

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed several votes today to attend an Interfaith Service in Boston. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present:

Rollcall No. 113—"Yes"
Rollcall No. 114—"Yes"
Rollcall No. 115—"Yes"
Rollcall No. 116—"Yes"
Rollcall No. 117—"No"

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS
IN ENGROSSMENT

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 624, the Clerk be authorized to make such technical and conforming changes as necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to my friend from Virginia, the majority leader, for the purposes of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House is not in session. On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions on Tuesday and Wednesday, a complete list of which will be announced by the close of business tomorrow. Of the suspensions, I'm proud to announce that the House will consider a bill by Representative TERRI SEWELL to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the four young girls who lost their lives in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham 50 years ago, which served as a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we'll take up H.R. 1549, the Helping Sick Ameri-

cans Now Act. This bill, authored by Representatives JOE PITTS, MICHAEL BURGESS, and ANN WAGNER, will help Americans with preexisting conditions obtain insurance coverage without delay.

We will also consider H.R. 527, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Chairman HASTINGS. This legislation applies pre-market principles to future sales from the Federal Helium Reserve and will protect thousands of American jobs.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the majority leader for the information on the business for next week.

I would observe that he and I co-chaired, the honorary cochairs, with JOHN LEWIS, of course, the chair, our leader, along with TERRI SEWELL, SPENCER BACHUS, and Congresswoman ROBY, a delegation to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to recognize the Voting Rights Act and the acts that led up to that. I thank the majority leader for bringing the gold medal bill to the floor, sponsored by Congresswoman SEWELL, recognizing those four little girls who at the Birmingham church lost their lives to what could rightfully be referred to, I think, as a terrorist act, a bomb going off, with no specific objective in mind other than to kill people inside that church.

□ 1310

The little girls were the closest to that explosion, and they lost their lives. And as the majority leader has pointed out, that event and the events that occurred in the square just across the street from the church led to this country living out its principles better than it had done to that date. But some lost their lives, these four little girls, and some gave dearly to accomplish that objective. So I thank the majority leader for facilitating that bill coming to the floor.

Mr. Leader, I noted on the schedule, however, that there is no motion to go to conference on the budget. As the gentleman knows, the House has been requesting for some years now a budget, which the Senate has passed. That budget has now been sent to the House and it is ripe for us to go to conference.

The gentleman, the Speaker, and others have been talking about regular order for some period of time. I agree with them. Regular order leads to better results. Regular order leads to an ability to sit down and try to come to compromises on where there are differences and to make progress. I would hope that we would follow regular order now that the Senate has acted.

Speaker BOEHNER said, in January of this year, "Regular order works best." I think he was absolutely right. There was a headline in Politico just a couple of days ago where it says, "GOP Clammers for Regular Order." Speaker BOEHNER said on December 8, 2011, regarding a bill we had passed:

The House has passed its bill. Now the Senate has passed its bill. And, you know, under

the Constitution, when we have these disagreements, there could be a formal conference between the House and Senate to resolve our differences.

You said that same year:

We have committed and the Speaker has committed to make sure that our committees will go through regular order.

PAUL RYAN, the chairman of the Budget Committee on November 29, 2011, said:

We're going to restore regular order.

I think you were correct in all those instances, and I want to associate myself with those remarks.

Now we have an opportunity for regular order, and we're going to be meeting next week, and then we'll be taking off a week. That is all time that a conference could be working to try to get us to an agreement so, frankly, we could not only have an agreement, which I think the country would welcome, but we could also, I think, substitute that agreement for the sequester, which is currently having and will have a very negative effect on our economy, on jobs, and on the confidence that Americans have that we're pursuing rational policies. The gentleman and I both have agreed that sequester is not a rational policy in that it deals with high-priority and low-priority items in very much the same way.

So my question, Mr. Leader, is there a possibility—it's not on the calendar and you didn't announce it, but I would urge you that we go to conference, preferably the first day we're back after this weekend, so that we could get to work on trying to get to an agreement on one of the most pressing problems confronting this country, and that's getting ourselves on a fiscally sustainable path.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I appreciate the spirit with which he recommends that we proceed along the lines asked for by those individuals he spoke about.

I would say to the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that I'm told that our chairman and the chairman on the other side of the Capitol, Mrs. MURRAY, they're meeting and looking to see the path forward so that we can effect a meeting of the minds and do what the American people are asking us to do, which is to get the fiscal challenges addressed at the Federal level so they can go on about making their life work and continue to create their dreams and live the life they want and have the life they want for their kids.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I want to say I have a lot of respect, as the gentleman knows and I have expressed on this floor, for Mr. RYAN. I think Mr. RYAN is a very able and dedicated and conscientious Member of this House. I have equal respect for and confidence in Senator MURRAY, who chairs the Senate Budget Committee.

And while I'm appreciative of the fact they're having discussions, frankly, the American people need to have a